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PRINCESS OF POWER™

Surprise In Whispering Woods

Written by John Braden
Illustrated by Jeffrey Wiener

Hi, everyone. I'm She-Ra. Welcome to your Princess of Power Read-Along Book. Every time you hear this sound . . . it means it's time to turn the page in your storybook. Now, if you are ready, we will start the story, "Surprise in Whispering Woods." Don't forget to turn the page every time you hear the sound. Okay? Now, let's begin.

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Everyone loves a surprise. But in my life, sometimes a surprise can turn up at a much-too-surprising time. You see, *you* have to be only *one* person, while I lead a double life, as both Adora and She-Ra. The problem is that those two can never be in the same place at the same time.

Here's the story
of what happened when
Adora – that's me – got
invited to a surprise
birthday party for She-Ra –
that's also me.

It all started one afternoon in Whispering Woods. Bow was talking to a large group of Twiggets that included Sprag, Sprockett, and Madame Razz.

"All right, everyone, settle down, settle down. Give me your attention for a moment. Please! We've got no time to lose. The party's just an hour away, and there's work to be done. We'll divide up into committees. Sprag!"

"Ready to go!" Sprag answered eagerly.

"You'll head up the Food Committee. What's on the menu?"

"It goes like this, Bow. There's marshmallow mushrooms, giggleberry pie, and my favorite — honey apple surprise!"

"What's the surprise?"

"Uh, I don't know . . . I've never made it before!"

Bow continued with his plan. "Madame Razz, you're on the Entertainment Committee. What do you have planned?"

Madame Razz explained, "There'll be dancing and singing, plus I promised to do a magic trick for everyone. . . . Oh, dearie my, yes, if I can just manage to remember how that old spell goes. Was it *Shalamaboo, Shalamabee,* or *Libbetygribbety flibbety fee?"*

Bow chuckled, then went on. "And, Sprockett, because of your great abilities as a leader and your skills as an organizer, I'm making you the head of the most important committee of all."

"Really, Bow? Wow! Which one is that?" cried Sprockett anxiously.

"The Clean-Up Committee. Ha! Ha! Ha!"

All the Twiggets had a good laugh, even Sprockett. Then they all hurried to work. It was almost time for the party to begin.

It was just about then that Adora arrived.

All the Twiggets ran out to greet her, calling, "Hey, look, everyone! It's Adora!"

"She's on my committee! I saw her first!" exclaimed Sprag.

But Madame Razz interrupted. "Please let her help *me*. I'm so overworked!"

This was the first time Adora had heard anything about a party, so she asked, "Who's the party for? Slow down, guys, and tell me what's happening."

Everyone started to explain. "There's a party . . . It's a . . . we're planning a . . ."

Adora held up her hand. "Don't all speak at once. Bow, tell me what's up."

"Why, Adora, haven't you heard? Today is She-Ra's birthday. The Twiggets and I are planning a surprise party for her. You will be there, won't you?"

Well um I don t know I stammered Adora
She-Ra w. be disappointed if you re not there " explained Bow.
But Bow, I mean I am umm I might
"No ifs, ands, or buts about t. You re staying, and that s that! Now, go help Sprag. She-Ra could be here at any moment
"You re right about that, Bow. She might be here much sooner than you think, Adora added with a chuckle

I think by now you're beginning to understand my problem — and Adora's. There she was at the surprise party for She-Ra. If she stayed, She-Ra would never show up, and that would have broken the Twiggets' hearts. But she couldn't leave, not without arousing Bow's suspicion. This was one problem even I couldn't help Adora with. Adora had to think of something — and fast! Some surprise party this was turning out to be! I could never show up, not as long as Adora stayed there. The real surprise of the day was going to end up being the sad faces on all of my little friends, the Twiggets, if Adora didn't come up with a plan.

Sprag must have noticed Adora's concern. He grabbed her by the hand and said. "What's the matter, Adora? Are you feeling well? You have a funny look on your face."

"Oh, it's nothing, Sprag. I feel just fine," Adora reassured him. "It's just that surprises make me a little nervous sometimes."

"We'll cheer up. This is going to be a day She-Ra will never forget. Don't you think so, Adora?"

"I'm certain of it, Sprag."

'Come on, Adora, and help me carry this big bowl of marshmallow mushrooms over to the table. It's much too heavy for me."

Minutes turned into hours, and the poor Twiggets started to grow worried. Sprag rushed up to Madame Razz and asked, "Are you positive you told She-Ra to meet you here in Whispering Woods by mid afternoon?"

"Oh, dearie me, yes! I'm sure I did! I wonder where she could be. It's not like her to be late."

Adora saw the worried look on Sprag's face and started to feel really terrible as Sprag stammered, "You... you... don't suppose some... some something could have happened to her, do you?"

"Certainly not! She-Ra can take care of herself," answered Madame Razz. "She would never keep me waiting for long."

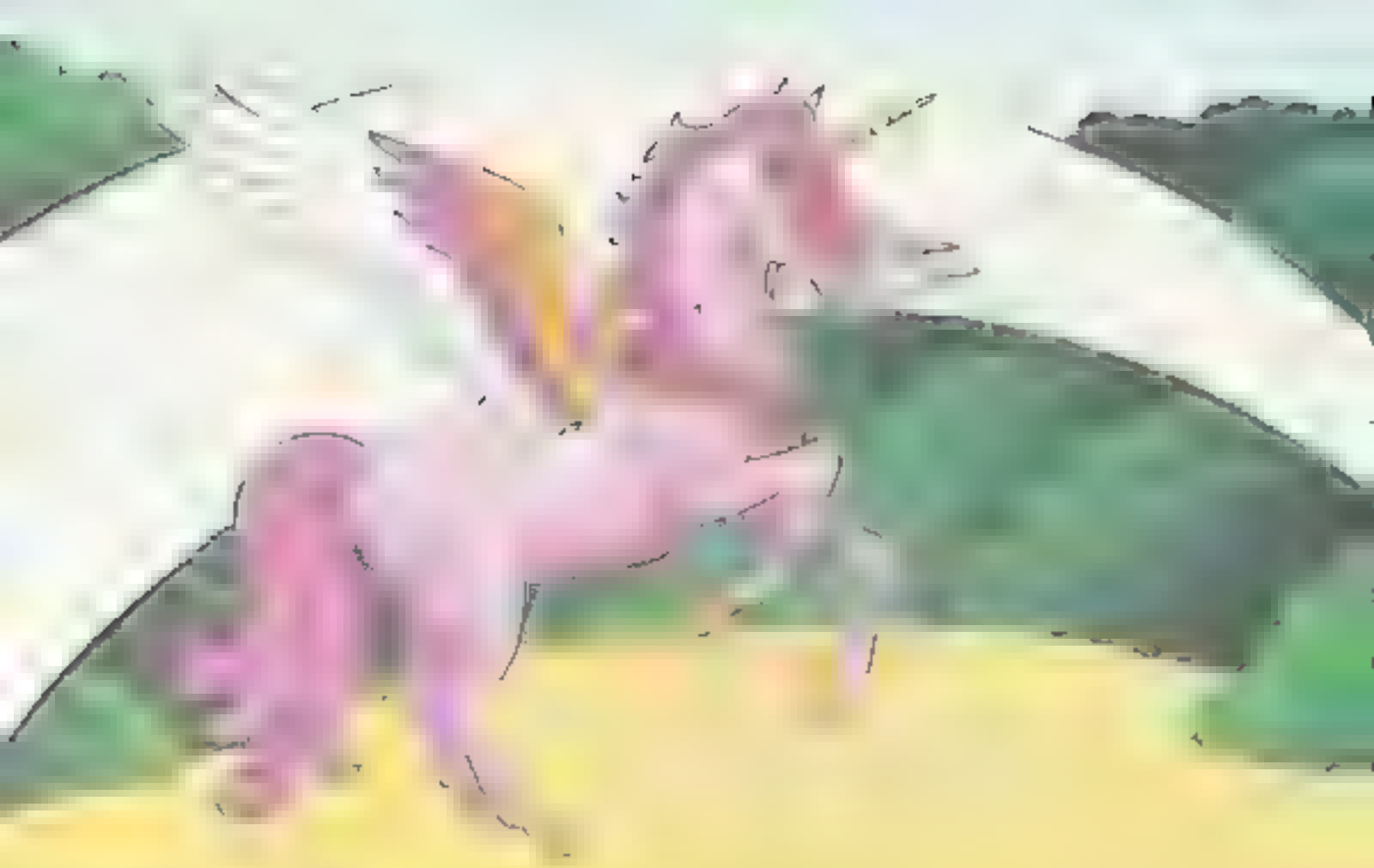
Then an idea came to Adora. "Listen, everyone. I'll take Spirit and go look for She Ra. If she's around, I'm sure Spirit and I can find her."

Bow thought that was a good idea. "Sure, Adora. Just don't tell her why you're bringing her back here to the camp. You wouldn't want to spoil the surprise."

Adora just smiled as she jumped on Spirit, and they started to gallop away.

The Twiggets shouted to her, "Find She Ra and bring her back, Adora. Please!"

"I will, my little friends, I promise you. She Ra will be here soon."



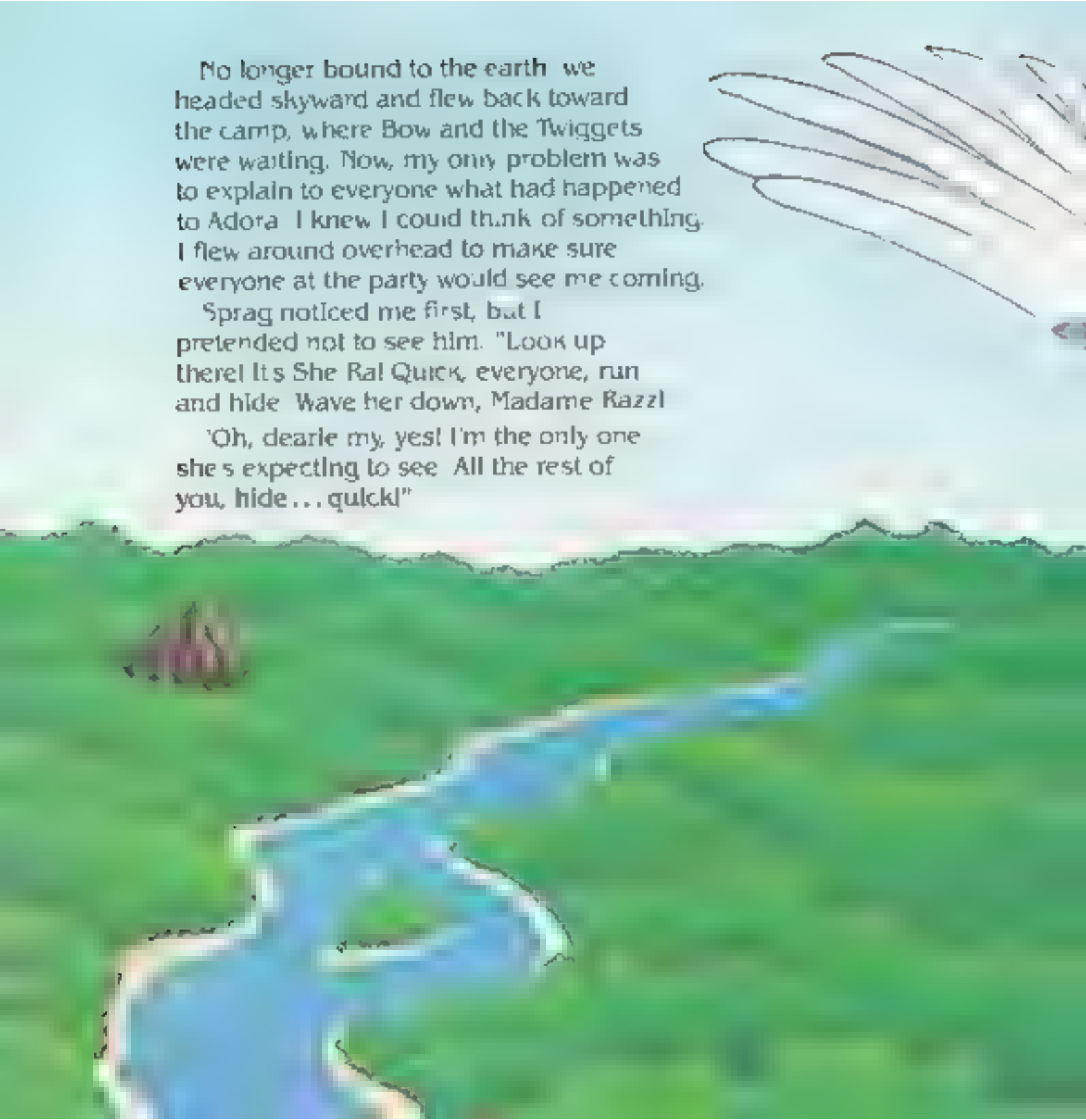
As soon as Adora was out of sight and hidden from the Twin Jets' view by the thick green of Whispering Woods, she drew her sword and shouted, "For the honor of Grayskull, I am She-Ra!" I felt the power race through me as Adora transformed into my mighty She-Ra, Princess of Power.

In the same magical instant, Spirit had changed into Swift Wind. As his strong white wings whipped the air, he said, "Hurry, She-Ra. There is not a moment to lose."

No longer bound to the earth we headed skyward and flew back toward the camp, where Bow and the Twiggets were waiting. Now, my only problem was to explain to everyone what had happened to Adora. I knew I could think of something. I flew around overhead to make sure everyone at the party would see me coming.

Sprag noticed me first, but I pretended not to see him. "Look up there! It's She-Ra! Quick, everyone, run and hide. Wave her down, Madame Razz!"

"Oh, dearie me, yes! I'm the only one she's expecting to see. All the rest of you, hide . . . quick!"



I had just landed in a clearing by the camp when the moment that my dear Twiggets had been working so hard for finally arrived.

"SURPRISE! SURPRISE! Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday, dear She-Ra! Happy Birthday to you! HOORAY!"

I smiled and acted as surprised as I possibly could. "Oh, my! What a surprise! You really fooled me! I thought I was coming here to visit Madame Razz "

"Oh, dearie my! I guessed we really fooled you, She-Ra."

"I promise you, today you Twiggets really caught me off guard."

Then Bow asked the question I was hoping he would forget to ask. "But where's Adora?"

"I sent her home," I explained. "She was looking a little pale."

Sprag agreed with me. "I noticed it too. I guess planning your surprise party was just too much for her."

I laughed and said, "You know, Sprag, I think you're right. But I can promise you all that today you have given me a party I shall never forget."

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PRINCESS OF POWER™
Surprise in Whispering Woods

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Written and Produced by John Hinston

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